

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 14, and 19 are amended. No new matter is added Claims 6-8 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-5 and 9-19 are pending and under consideration.

INTERVIEW WITH THE EXAMINER

First, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant's representative on June 9, 2009, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Arguments similar to the ones included in the amendment filed on June 1, 2009 were presented and the Examiner made further suggestions for improving the claims, encouraging Applicants to file a Supplemental Amendment.

SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND ARGUMENTS

The claim amendments are supported by the originally filed application and aim to address Examiner's concerns related to clarity and to further specify the claimed subject matter.

Kosaka teaches that the erbium added optical fiber (i.e. the optical amplifying unit) is controlled such that **the gain of the probe light power remains constant**. According to such a arrangement, when "the trunk line system is normal and the probe light beam is normally inputted," "the light outputs of the signal light beams λ_1 , λ_2 , λ_3 and λ_4 can each be maintained at a predetermined value."

However, when the trunk line system is NOT normal and the probe light beam is NOT normally inputted (that is, it deviates), the gain of the erbium added optical fiber is NOT kept constant. **ONLY the light output of the probe light beam λ_p monitored by the light receiving unit 28 is controlled to be constant**. (See the Amendment filed on June 1, 2009, page 8, line 16-24.)

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

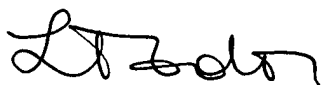
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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